has been a sharp rise in the import of m.icnme tools;

(b) whether it is alsq a tact that the import increased at double the rate of increase in indigenous production;

(c) if sQ. what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the annual indigenous production and import during this decade;

(e) whether Government have any plan to boost up indigenous production and restrict import; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a), (b) and (d) According to information available with the Government, the details of production and imports of machine tools during the year 1978, 1986 and 1987 are as under:—

Year	Production (Rs. cmi	Imports
1978 •		40
1986 ...	325	250*
1987 .	370*	200*

♦(Estimated figures)

(c) The main reason for the larger impovt of machine tools in recent years has been the shifting pattern of demand from conventional machine tools to special purpose and CNC machine tools. The industry is in the process of adjusting to this shift in demand.

(e) and (f) Government have encouraged foreign collaborations for import of modern technology for the Machine Tool Sector to enable the indigenous manufacturers - to upgrade their technological standards. Government have also introduced a Technology Upgradation Scheme in Atigust, 1987 for selected capital goods industries including machine tools. In terms of this scheme, specified items of capital equipments required lor the manufacture of macnine tooi$_s$ have been allowed to be imported on a concessional rate of import duty of 35 per cent. In the budget of 1988-89, the excise duty in CNC system$_s$ has been reduced to 5 per cent *ad valoiem* The customs duty on the import of CNC systems and their parts has also been reduced from 80 per cent to >">5 per cent *ad valorem.* These will help the machine tool industry to modernise and upgrade technology. As regards the restriction of imports of machine tools, the imports are allowed after taking into account the indigenous capability and in accordance with the imoprt policy in force.

Rural Postal Network

1895. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Plan funds spent on the rural postal services during 1985-86 and 1986-87 and the funds proposed to be spent during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) the percentage of Plan funds spent in suburban and rural areas separately during the same period, year-wise and

(c) the figure$_s$ regarding the total income from rural post offices and actual expenditure on rural postal network during 1985-86 and 1980-87?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE>: (a) Information for the period 1985-86 to 1988-89 is furnished in the annexed statement. *S&e* below. The position in respect of 1989-90 can be indicated only when the Annual Plan for that year is finalised towards the end of 1988-89.

(b) It is not feasibe to allocate Plan expenditure as between "Urban", "suburban" and "rural" because the budgetary heads which are prevalent at present dq not provide for such a distinction except for the limited purpose of opening of new post offices covered in part (a) of the reply.

(c) It is not practicable to state the *total* income from rural post because assessment of income is d out only in respect of cxtra- tces and that also once in three years. Departmental post lined on a peri' basis in rural areas are not subject to periodical assessment of income is it practicable to. state with any degree q£ accuracy what the total diture on rural postal n -is because apart from the pay ind i to employees posted in rural areas and other direct expenses such as rents, there are supervisory overheads at various levels which cannot be conveniently apportioned as between 'Urban' and 'rural'.

Statement

1. Percentage of Plan funds sPent on rural postal services ("Opening of new post offices in rural areas")

1985-86	0.0s
1986-87	0.09

2. Percentage of estimated Plan expenditure on rural postal services ("Opening of new post offices in rural areas")

1987-88	1.43
1988-89	6.8

Speedy Post Service to Eolpur Shantiniketan

1896. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased tq state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Bolpur Shantiniketan with a speedy post service; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply abqve. The Principal requirement for the introduction of ttii$_s$ service is the availability of air service with suitable arrival/departure timings vis-avis despatch and receipt of mail. The proposed service from Bolpur, Shanti-niketan does not fulfil this requirement.

Prices of Vitamin A and Vitamin C

1897. SHRIMATI SATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be^ pleased to refer to the answer to Juestion 68i given in the Rajya gabha on the 29th February, 1988 and state:

(a) whether t that the producers of Vitamin A and Vitamin C have increased their prices;

(b) if so$_i$ whether' the producers have provided the break-up as required under DPCO, 1987 before increasing th$_e$ Prices; and

(c) if so, what are the names of the companies which submitted the break-up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J VENGAL *RAD}:* (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The names of the companies who submitted the break-up are:

1. Vitamin A

   M/s. Roche Products Ltd. M/s. Kerala stat$_e$ Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

2. Vitamin C

   M/s. Ambalal Sarabhai Enterprises,

Push-button Telephones to MP$_S$

1898. SHRI SURA J PRASAD: Will th$_e$ Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether push-button telephone instruments have been provided to th$_e$ Members of Parliament and other VIPs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof.

(c) whether telephone instruments of ex-MPs in Delhi will also be replaced by push-button telephones; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir